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# Pero Vaz de Sequeira, an opera based on historical event: An alternative history of Thailand in the late reign of King Narai (1684-1688)

Pathorn Srikananda <sup>a \*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Assistant Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University, 50 Ngam Wong Wan Rd, Lat Yao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND

## Abstract

This research is one of the subprojects of Pero Vaz de Sequeira, an opera commemorating the Quincentenary of Portugal-Thailand Diplomatic Relations (1511-2011). It is dedicated to the Duke of Bragança HRH Dom Duarte Pio, the project's honorary patron. The purposes of this research were 1) to review and synthesize history books and contemporary historic archives of the late period of King Narai of Siam's reign (1684-1688). This period was very critical in terms of Siamese identity in the global context when European aggression was evermore presented which led to the fall of Narai's dynasty after his demise. 2) The use of the synthesized information is to construct the plot of Pero Vaz de Sequeira, a new opera with an alternative perspective of Siamese history. The research design of this study was qualitative research including two phases of study. Phase one, to study the historical data using documentary study. Phase two, to construct the plot of the opera using synthesized information starting from 1) general plot outlining the whole story, 2) specific plot in details with conflicts, 3) character portraying, and 4) constructing the libretto and narratives in the form of epistles.

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## 1. Background and significant of the study

### 1.1. The Portuguese presence in Siam

In 1498, the Portuguese Vasco da Gama, sailing around the southern tip of the African continent, discovered the sea route from Europe to India. Within the following decade, the Portuguese were able to set up its stronghold in India and in 1509, by the order of the newly established office of Viceroyalty in Goa, a trade mission was sent to Malacca in Southeast Asia (Trakulhun, 2011). The Malaccan at first welcomed the foreigner but later turned against them. While they were taken prisoners in Malacca, the Portuguese learned that the Malaccan at that time was under the suzerainty of the kingdom they called "Siam" (Conceição Flores, 1991). After escaping from Malacca, the

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\* Corresponding Author: Asst. Prof. Dr. Pathorn Srikananda. Tel.: +66-81-482-8262

E-mail address: [pathorns@gmail.com](mailto:pathorns@gmail.com)

Portuguese returned to Malacca once more in 1511 and conquered it. The first task undertaken after the conquest was sending the first mission to Siam to inform the Siamese King Ramathibodi II (r.1491-1529) of the conquest (Phongsiphian, 2011). In 1518, a trade treaty was concluded and a Portuguese compound or bandel was established. Over the centuries, the Portuguese were to play parts in the course of development of the Siamese culture, politics and military (Conceição Flores, 1991). Their legacy survives to the present days in the form of religion, armory, and gastronomy. Many of the Thai national dishes especially desserts such as *Taungyib*, *Taungyau*, and *Foitaung* can all trace its origin from Portugal (Kantamara, 2002).

### *1.2. The coming of the French, the Siamese Revolution and its aftermath*

King Ramathibodi III (r.1656-1688), better known in the West as King Narai, is known to be a progressive ruler – one of the most enlightened monarchs in Thai history. Narai's open policy to foreigners particularly the Europeans was well known and recorded in contemporary accounts. Narai's government under his favorite, the Greek adventurer cum chief minister, Constantine Phaulkon, sent diplomatic missions throughout Asia and Europe (Strach, 2000). The French King Louis XIV (r.1643-1715) sent missions to Siam in 1685 and 1687. The growing French influence caused the fear among the mandarins of colonialism and lead to the so-called "Siamese Revolution" in 1688 (Taikuntanapop, 2012). The revolution resulted in the execution of Phaulkon and the ascension to the Throne of Ok-pa Petracha (r.1688-1703). The new king immediately expelled the French and the policy of xenophobic isolationism was introduced (Smithies 2004). The Portuguese residents were not mentioned in any source of whether they participated in the revolution. They were however allowed to remain in Siam and continue to be in service to the Crown until the Fall of Ayuthaya in 1767 when they relocated to Bangkok, the new Siamese capital under the new king, Barommara IV (r.1767-1782). The French, on the contrary, never re-established again until 1856 when they arrived in Southeast Asia with colonialist ambitions during the reign of King Mongkut (r.1851-1868) (Lemire, 1903).

In present time, the French is now seen as Thailand's close ally and the diplomatic relationship between the two countries is seen as unabrupt since the time of King Narai. The many French accounts of the two embassies are interpreted as that Louis XIV treated Narai to be his equal. In modern-day Thailand, King Narai is seen as a symbol of prosperity and greatness. The epithet "the Great" was bestowed upon him during the nationalist government of Prime Minister Pibulsongkram in the 1960s. Phaulkon is seen as a loyal servant to the king who only wanted the best for the Siamese. King Petracha, on the contrary, is seen as a usurper whose isolationism policy drove the country into backwaters and lead to the Fall of Ayuthaya with the reign of his great grandson King Egat (r.1758-1767) (Jumsai, 1988).

### *1.3. The Embassy of Pero Vaz de Sequeira to the Court of King Narai and the Portuguese legacy in Siam*

In 2006 the researcher was approached by the Portuguese Embassy in Bangkok about the idea of composing a commemoration piece for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic friendship between Thailand and Portugal in 2011. The researcher proposed the idea of a musical tribute based on the story of the first Portuguese embassy in 1511 and began searching for raw materials for such musical composition. However, the researcher found a recently discovered report of a Portuguese embassy to the Court of King Narai in 1684. The account was found in Goa, India and subsequently published in Macau by Leonor de Seabra. Not only that it shows the Portuguese involvement in the international politics at that time, it also gave us light to the early French colonialist ambitions in the Southeast Asia that is contradict to the generally accepted version of popular history (Seabra, 2005). The researcher decided to re-propose the project using this story set into an opera instead.

## 2. Research objectives

The purpose of this research is to gather as much information and data as possible to construct the storyline of the opera with specific objectives as follow:

- 1) The general plot outlining the whole story. This includes a) the storyline from the arrival to the departure of the embassy, b) the prologue that is used to build up the plot, and c) the epilogue which deal with the aftermath of the Siamese Revolution.
- 2) Specific plot in details of specific scenes, i.e. the presentation of the embassy in the throne hall and the elephant round-up ground.
- 3) Character portraying and background, i.e. the king, the ambassador, the monk, or the treasonous minister.
- 4) Constructing the libretto and narratives in the form of epistles which has to sound authentic in terms of idea and manners in multicultural contexts.

## 3. Research questions

- 1) How the researcher uses the information to construct the plot of the opera?
- 2) How historical archives mention about the foreign diplomacy and the Siamese Revolution of 1688?

## 4. Scope of the research

This research is focused on the time at the end of King Narai's reign (1684-1688) that mentioned about 1) the Embassy of Pero Vaz de Sequeira, and 2) the Siamese Revolution of 1688.

## 5. The history of Siam during the late reign of King Narai (1684-1688)

The data that contain the period of the late reign of King Narai that the researcher reviewed can be generally categorized into 3 sources as follow:

### 5.1. The Thai and Burmese Archives

The researcher reviewed the two editions of the Ayuthayan Royal Chronicle: 1) The older chronicle, *Pra Rācha Pongsawadārn Krung Srī Ayuthayā Chabab Pan Chandhanumās* (Royal Chronicle of Ayuthaya edited by Pan Chandhanumas), compiled in early Thonburi Period (1767-1782), and 2) *Pra Rācha Pongsawadārn Krung Srī Ayuthayā Jāk Ton Chabab Tī Pen Sombat Kaung British Meusiam Krung Laundaun* (Royal Chronicle of Ayuthaya from Manuscript kept at the British Museum, London), compiled in 1807. The two chronicles are the official versions with general information such as names of the monarch, their reigning dates, and royal genealogies. They also gave the accounts of the important activities of the rulers such as the decisive battles or religious ceremonies however they do not give any account about diplomatic activity or mention of any political upheld. Both chronicles only briefly mentioned that in 1682 the ailing King Narai appointed Ok-pa Petracha Regent of Siam and after the King's demise six years later, Petracha presided over the royal cremation.

The researcher also reviewed the only Siamese chronicle written in the Burmese language: The *Kam Hai Gān Kun Luang Hā Wad* (The Lord Temple-Searching's Interview). It is an account written in Burma after the Fall of Ayuthaya in 1767. The King of Ayuthaya, Uthumpaun, after reigning for 2 months in 1758, abdicated in favor of his elder brother Egatat. The latter was killed in Ayuthaya while the former, in monkhood, was taken prisoner along with his courtier to Ava. This report is one of the most studied documents from the pre-Bangkok era, when it was translated into Thai and published in Bangkok by Samuel Smith in 1912, as it was allegedly compiled from interviewing Uthumpaun and other former courtiers themselves. A chapter is devoted to King Narai of which mentioned that the King himself demonstrated the art of elephant training to the "farang" (a general term in Thai for Caucasians), who viewed it with awe. It is the only source that firmly stated that Narai's illegitimate son, Ok-luang

Sorasak, was offered the throne after the former's demise but the latter gave the throne to his foster father Ok-pa Petracha instead. This is very much in contrast to the Thai Royal Chronicles where Petracha himself was recognized by Narai to be his natural successor despite their unclear relation. It likewise mentions neither diplomatic account nor the Siamese Revolution.

### 5.2. *The French Archives*

The French King Louis XIV (r.1638-1715) sent two embassies to Siam during the reign of King Narai. The first one, headed by Chevalier de Chaumont, in 1685 was sent at the request of Constantine Phaulkon to convert King Narai to Catholicism. De Chaumont reported that his embassy was the first ever from Europe to be granted an audience with the King himself. Phaulkon granted the tin monopoly on the Island of Phuket to the French which De Chaumont appointed his own maître d'hôtel (headwaiter) to the position of the Island's governor. This report however never mentions the Portuguese mission that arrived the previous year.

The second mission, headed by Simon de la Loubère, in 1687 is even more interesting as the mission consisted of a French expeditionary force of 1,361 soldiers, missionaries, envoys and crews. When they arrived on the Chaopraya Delta, a group of 600 soldiers were to take over the Port of Bangkok and another group dispatched to the Port of Mergui in the South. De la Loubère himself compiled and published a book entitled *Description du Royaume de Siam* in 1700 exploring Siam in every detail. From this book, the researcher examined the lives of the mandarins at the royal court where at one point stated that Narai and Petracha were cousins. De la Loubère, never updated his account, did not mention about the Portuguese embassy or the Siamese Revolution however many who accompanied the second embassy wrote accounts of the Siamese Revolution, many of whom were among the first witnesses. These are the Jesuit priests Guy Tachard (*Second Voyage du père Tachard au royaume de Siam*) and Marcel LeBlanc (*Histoire de la révolution du royaume de Siam en 1688*), soldiers General Desfarges, Lieutenant de La Touche, and engineer Jean Vollant des Verquains (*Three military accounts of the 1688 'revolution' in Siam*).

De Chaumont's report, de la Loubère's book and other French contemporary accounts, for many decades, served as only viewpoints of the period until the discovery of the Pero Vaz Mission Report in the Indian Archive.

### 5.3. *The Indian Archive*

In 2006, the report of a Portuguese mission to Siam, headed by Macau's statesman Pero Vaz de Sequeira in 1684, was discovered at the Goa State Museum and Archives, India. This report gave us a viewpoint that is different from all other contemporary accounts. It shows how the Portuguese viewed the French arrival to the Asian Continent with skepticism. It also gave a full account of how the embassy was received at the royal court and, for the first time, gave us a full picture of the Portuguese bandel in Ayuthaya.

Pero Vaz de Sequeira (c.1630-1703) was a natural son of the Portuguese ambassador to Japan, Gonçalo de Sequeira de Sousa. Pero Vaz accompanied his father to Japan and when the elder died in Goa in 1648, he rendered his services to the Portuguese Viceroy of India. While in service, he traveled throughout the world before settling down in Macau in 1670. During his time in Macau, he managed a successful private trading company covering a wide area of Siam, Malaya, the Philippines, China, and India. He became one of the wealthiest men around and, at the height of his career, owned the largest fleet in Macau.

In 1683, the Viceroy of India, on behalf of the Prince Regent of Portugal, appointed Pero Vaz Ambassador to Siam to reaffirm the old friendship between the two nations. After his return to Macau in 1684, he became an agent for King Narai looking after his interests in Macau until Narai's demise in 1688. During this period (1684-1688), Pero Vaz also supported Ok-pa Petracha against the French-supported Constantine Phaulkon. After the Siamese Revolution, Pero Vaz continued conducting trade with Siam and corresponded with Petracha who succeeded Narai as king of Siam. Pero Vaz became the Governor General of Macau from 1698-1700 and a rare second term from 1702 until his demise while in office in 1703.

The archives reviewed by the researcher are summarized in the table 1 below:

Table 1. The historical data reviewed

Topic	Thai & Burmese	French	Indian
1. The Portuguese presence in Siam	a) The European presence in Siam	-	a) The Portuguese was the first European to arrive in Southeast Asia.
Topic	Thai & Burmese	French	Indian
2. The French presence in Siam	a) The European presence in Siam. b) The French offers friendship and treats Siam as equal.	a) The French embassies and merchants. b) The French colonialist motives and secretly collecting data for it. c) Claims that the 1685 French mission was the first for a European envoy to be treated with full honor.	a) The French embassies and merchants. b) The French aggressions and colonialist intentions c) The French “Propaganda Fide” takes religious control from the Portuguese.
3. The Pero Vaz Embassy	-	a) Reports that a Portuguese mission has just depart Siam but states that they has not been received by the Royal Court.	a) The Pero Vaz Embassy is received by the Royal Court. b) The treaty concludes with success.
4. The Siamese Revolution	a) Non, only peaceful change of ruling dynasty from Prasattaung to Baan Pluluang.	a) All accounts of the Revolution in details.	a) The events that lead to the Revolution but not the Revolution itself.
5. Places	a) Imperial Palace, Lawo b) Regal Palace, Ayuthaya c) Elephant round-up ground	a) Imperial Palace, Lawo b) Elephant round-up ground	a) Portuguese bandel, Ayuthaya b) Chaopraya delta, Bangkok c) Imperial Palace, Lawo d) Elephant round-up ground
6. Character Portrayals	a) King Narai b) Ok-pra Petracha	a) King Narai b) Ok-pra Petracha c) Constantine Phaulkon d) Maria Guyomar e) Father Manoel Soares	a) King Narai b) Ok-pra Petracha c) Pero Vaz de Sequeira d) Captain-Major e) Constantine Phaulkon f) Maria Guyomar g) Father Manoel Soares h) Luiz de Sequeira de Sousa

## 6. Research Methodology

The researcher used the documentary-research method. The researcher studied the related documents in details and analyzed and synthesized the result. The processes were:

- 1) The researcher studied the historical archives both primary and secondary data according to research objective.
- 2) The researcher constructed the index to effectively manage the data.
- 3) The data were categorized into groups before analyze.
- 4) The data were validated using the data triangulation.
- 5) The data were analyzed using content analysis with focus on describing and explaining the chain of events.
- 6) The analytic-induction analysis was used to summarize the result of the study.
- 7) The data was then used to construct the plot, the libretto, and the characters of the opera.

## 7. Result

The purpose of this study was to construct an alternative viewpoint to the history of late-17<sup>th</sup>-Century Siam. The researcher is not a historian but a musical composer, the aim was therefore not to rewrite history or to find truest “truth” for that matter. The result of the study was used to create a semi-non-fictional plot for a stage performance and not a history book or a thesis.

The plot of the opera is divided into two acts of five cantos or scenes in each. The chosen time period is from 27 March 1684, the day that the embassy arrived at Bangkok, to 8 June 1684, the day that the embassy was concluded. The first act deals with the time in the City of Ayuthaya and the second act, in the City of Lawo, the second capital

where King Narai resided. Thus the first five cantos deal with Pero Vaz gathering as much information from people around regarding the French activities. The second act is about putting the clues together and trying to warn King Narai.

The researcher also added three special “epistle” scenes which the Pero Vaz character would read the three important letters outlining the whole story. The first or the “past” letter, to be read at the beginning of the opera, is from the Viceroy of India, who gave the instruction to the task of the mission especially the concern of the French presence in Siam. The second or the “present” letter, to be read between canto five and six, is from the antagonist Constantine Phaulkon, who authorized Pero Vaz to go to Lawo to present the embassy. The last or the “future” letter, to be read at the end, is from Maria Guyomar telling Pero Vaz of the “Siamese Revolution” and its aftermath.

The researcher portrays the character of Pero Vaz as the protagonist of the story due to his role in preserving the Siamese independence but nowadays is completely forgotten. King Petracha, who succeeded King Narai, had often been portrayed by historians as nothing more than a usurper when he should be portrayed as the Siamese savior and the defender of the Buddhist faith. Likewise, Maria Guyomar’s status, as stated in her own “epistle”, was reduced down to the lowest rank of the society that is of slavery. Of all her heroic deeds and virtues, she is only remembered as someone who took the Portuguese gastronomy to Siam. The synopsis and libretto are therefore drastically different from popular viewpoint. It gave more prominent roles to historical figures who otherwise being silent in most history books. The data are summarized in table 2 below:

Table 2. Synopsis outline

Scene / Title	Action	Significance	Source
First Epistle: Letter from Viceroy	Instructions to ratify the friendship between the two countries. Secretly find out about the French activities in this area.	This letter proves that the international community at that time was aware of the French colonialist ambitions.	Pero Vaz Embassy Report
Canto I: <i>Chaopraya Delta, Bangkok</i>	1) Pero Vaz finds that the Captain-Major of the Portuguese bandel is imprisoned.	Find out why the Captain-Major is imprisoned since he only answers to the Viceroy of India?	Pero Vaz Embassy Report
Canto II: <i>Chaopraya Delta, a day later</i>	1) Constantine Phaulkon invites the embassy to disembark and travel on the royal vessels to Ayuthaya. 2) Phaulkon mentions that the Captain-Major was caught in crimes against the state and the church and is arrested by Petracha, the Regent of Ayuthaya.	Find out why and how the Captain-Major is arrested by the Regent?	Pero Vaz Embassy Report  Ayuthayan Chronicles
Canto III: <i>Portuguese Bandel, Ayuthaya</i>	1) Constantine informs that the King is at Lawo and asks Pero Vaz to deliver the embassy to the Regent instead but Pero Vaz disagrees. 2) Father Manoel informs about the French Propaganda Fide and that the French vicar is here. However he assures that the Pope is in control of the propaganda and the French will not interfere with the Portuguese residents. 3) Father Manoel informs that the French vicar governs the Portuguese bandel while the Captain-Major is imprisoned. 4) Father Manoel praises Constantine for his greatness but warns not to trust Ok-pa Petracha.	Shows that Constantine does not want the Embassy to succeed since it might interfere with his activities with the French. Father Manoel was among the first Portuguese priests in Siam to accept the suzerainty of the French vicar. His advice is found to be untrue as the French vicar already interfere with the Portuguese administration in Siam.  Who authorized the French vicar to govern the bandel when he had no rights in temporal administrating?	Pero Vaz Embassy Report  De Chaumont Embassy Report  Pero Vaz Embassy Report  Pero Vaz Embassy Report



Canto IV: <i>Market Place, Ayuthaya</i>	1) Pero Vaz and Luiz discusses about the fell Embassy to Japan of Pero Vaz's father 40 years previously.	The Portuguese involved too much in Japanese politics in early 17 <sup>th</sup> Century. This resulted in the expulsion of foreigners and Christians. This episode can repeat in Siam if Pero Vaz interferes too much in Siamese politics. On the contrary, this episode forecasts what would eventually happen.	Gonço de Sousa de Sequeira Embassy Report
Canto V: <i>Regal Palace</i>	1) D. Pero is taken to the Regal Palace by force.	There is no historical account	
Scene / Title	Action	Significance	Source
	2) Ok-pa Petracha asks why, in Portugal, a regent governs the land. Pero Vaz replies that the King of Portugal suffers from illness and his younger brother Prince Pedro acts as regent. Petracha states that the King, his cousin is in perfectly good health but prefers to be at the Court in Lawo. So he acts as regent but he has no desire to take the throne for himself.	It is important to state here that Portugal at that time was governed by a Prince Regent due to the King of Portugal's incapability to rule. Petracha has been Regent of Siam since 1682 due to the King's preference to reside in Lawo. In all accounts, Petracha stated his disinterest to be king himself.	History of Portugal  Ayuthayan Chronicle, The Burmese Interview
	3) Petracha reveals that he fake-arrested the Captain-Major in order to protect him from Phaulkon. He reveals that Phaulkon supports the French domination of Siam.	There is no account to this episode however at the end of the Pero Vaz mission, the Captain-Major went to Macau with Pero Vaz who claimed that only the Viceroy of India can issue an arrest. After the Siamese Revolution, the Captain-Major returned to Siam and continued administrating the bandel until his death.	Pero Vaz Embassy Report
	4) Petracha promises to personally inform the King to grant the presentation of the embassy.	Again, there is no record of it, however we learned that the Siamese State Council, of which Petracha was a member, advised the king to grant the presentation against Phaulkon's advice.	Pero Vaz Embassy Report
Middle Epistle: <i>Letter from Phaulkon</i>	Permission for the embassy to go up the river to Lawo to present the embassy to the King.	In this letter, Phaulkon still insisted on the Siamese custom for the ambassador to prostrate on the ground which Pero Vaz refused.	Pero Vaz Embassy Report
Canto VI: <i>Embassy Resident, Lawo</i>	Maria reveals that she is the wife of Phaulkon and hands over a letter she intercepts from her husband. He wrote the King of France to send more missionaries to Siam but not to spreading the religion but rather to gather information as much as possible. The secondary goal is to convert the King.	There is no account of Maria's interception but the letter he wrote to the King of France still exists. Tachard mentioned in his book that the six French Jesuits were instructed to collect information as much as possible. In LeBlanc's book also mentions a recommendation to the French King to colonize Siam without difficulty.	Tachard's <i>Second Voyage</i> , LeBlanc's <i>Histoire</i> , De la Loubère's <i>Description</i>
Canto VII: <i>Imperial Palace, Lawo</i>	1) The presentation of the embassy.  2) King Narai praises Portugal as Portugal was the first European country to have contact with Siam since 1511.	This is the first ever for the Portuguese envoy (or any of the European nations) to be accepted with such grand honor.	Pero Vaz Embassy Report  Pero Vaz Embassy Report
Canto VIII: <i>Elephant Round-up Ground</i>	1) The embassy attends the King's elephant round-up. 2) Pero Vaz warns the King, without success, about the French Propaganda.	This episode shows that the Siamese Revolution was unavoidable.	Pero Vaz Embassy Report

	<p>3) Maria informs Pero Vaz that Phaulkon has requested the King of France to grant him a French countship and requests for the French armada to come to Siam, offering the French to take over the Cities of Mergui and Bangkok, turning Siam into a French protectorate with Phaulkon as regent.</p> <p>4) Pero Vaz praises Maria as a true spirit of the Portuguese greatness. She replies that she is indeed have Portuguese ancestry however as she was born and grows up here, she considers herself to be a Siamese. She states that Petracha will do whatever it takes to protect Siam from the French.</p>	<p>Although there is no proof (or have yet to be discovered) of Maria's espionage, de la Loubère gave a report that the French countship was granted to Phaulkon immediately after the French embassy's arrival.</p> <p>Maria's brevity and loyalty to Siam was evidenced after the Siamese Revolution when King Petracha and later reigns appointed her as the <i>Tāō Tāūng Kībmā</i> or the royal dessert chef despite her slavery status. Her son also rendered his service to the Siamese Crown until the Fall of Ayuthaya.</p>	<p>Pero Vaz Embassy Report, De la Loubère's <i>Description</i>, Desfarges' Military Accounts</p>
Scene / Title	Action	Significance	Source
Canto IX: <i>Regal Palace</i>	Pero Vaz rushes to the Regal Palace and informs Petracha about what he has heard. Petracha vows to do anything to protect Siam from the French. Pero Vaz pledges his support to Petracha.	Narai's trust in Petracha was so overwhelmed that he appointed Petracha Regent of Siam in 1682 even though Narai's two brothers were still alive.	Royal Ayuthayan Chronicles, Desfarges' Military Accounts
Canto X: <i>Imperial Palace, Lawo</i>	<p>1) The embassy has the farewell audience with the King. He does not ask the King again to consider the expulsion of the French but rather request him for the protection of the Portuguese residents in Siam. The King grants the request and decrees to send an embassy to Portugal to ratify the friendship. He also requests Pero Vaz to look after the matters of the Siamese Crown in Macau for him.</p> <p>2) Pero Vaz concludes the mission. Phaulkon is seen at the side looking forward to the greatest achievement of his with the French while his wife Maria, in grimed face, foretelling the Siamese Revolution.</p>	Pero Vaz tried to warn the king about the French intentions many times during his embassy in Siam. With the advice made by both Maria Guyomar and Father Manoel, Pero concluded the mission by asking for the jurisdiction over the Portuguese bandel and thus established another settlement for the French vicar.	<p>Pero Vaz Embassy Report</p> <p>Pero Vaz Embassy Report</p>
Last Epistle: <i>Letter from Maria Guyomar</i>	Report of the aftermath of the Siamese Revolution. Petracha ascends to the Throne and expel the French. She thanks Pero Vaz for putting in good words to the new king and allows her to work in the Royal Confectionary.	This letter is a reconstruction from information regarding the living condition of Maria and her family after the Siamese Revolution.	LeBlanc's <i>Histoire</i> , Desfarges' Military Accounts

## 8. Conclusion and discussion

Although the objective of this study is to construct the storyline of an opera based on historical event in the late period of King Narai of Siam's reign (1684-1688), using the documentary-research method from original sources, there are more value to the study. The contrasts between the three archives allowed the researcher to examine, analyze and resulted in an alternative viewpoint to the history.

Not only that an operatic plot is produced as a result, the key points to the events that lead to the Siamese Revolution have been reexamined. The often overlooked roles of the Portuguese involvement in Siam and the Siamese Revolution with emphasis on the Pero Vaz Embassy are reinterpreted. The motives of Ok-pa Petracha is reexamined and showing him to be a rightful heir rather than a usurper. Maria Guyomar, likewise, had more prominent roles in history than the adaptation of the Portuguese delicacy in Thai's diet.

As stated that the researcher is a musical composer and not a historian, the researcher prefer to leave the task of writing (or rewriting) history to historians. The researcher hopes that the study and its result will lid up a small torch that can perhaps begin a chain of thoughts relooking at what had happened in the late period of King Narai's reign.



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